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CLPTO/BW

CANCEL 1-37

ADD CLAIMS 38-64

09/08/04



Claim 38. (New) A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:

a plurality of individual modules assembled together to form the harness including a zip coupling having a first member for selectively engaging a second member.

Claim 39. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein one of the modules is more compliant than another of the modules.

Claim 40. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein at least two adjacent modules are selectively releaseable from one another.

Claim 41. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 40, wherein at least two adjacent modules are connected to each other.

Claim 42. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the first member is configured to engage the second member in vivo.

Claim 43. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein at least one pair of adjacent modules are permanently affixed to one another.

Claim 44. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein at least one of the modules comprises a spring hinge.

Claim 45. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for minimally invasive delivery.

Claim 46. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for in vivo assembly.

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Claim 47. (New) A cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart, comprising:
a first module which extends along a first portion of a circumference of the harness; and
a second module which extends along a second portion of the circumference of the harness;
wherein the first and second modules are connected to one another by a zip coupling having a first member for selectively engaging a second member.

Claim 48. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first and second modules are connected to one another by the zip coupling being interposed between the modules.

Claim 49. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module is more compliant than the second module.

Claim 50. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module and the second module are configured for minimally invasive delivery.

Claim 51. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the first module and the second module are configured for in vivo assembly

Claim 52. (New) A method of making a cardiac harness, comprising:
providing a plurality of modules; and
connecting the modules to one another to form the harness by use of a zip coupling having a first member engage a second member.

Claim 53. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the zip coupling is disposed between each module.

Claim 54. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the modules are assembled in vivo.

Claim 55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein the modules are delivered to the heart by minimally invasive access prior to assembly in vivo.

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3 Claim 56. (New) A method of treating a diseased heart, comprising:
providing a cardiac harness configured to fit about a patient's heart and comprising a first end and a second end, the first end and the second end being adapted to be coupled to one another;
rolling at least a portion of the cardiac harness about an axis;
placing the rolled cardiac harness adjacent a portion of the patient's heart;
unrolling the harness so that the unrolled harness fits about the heart; and
coupling the first end and the second end using a zip coupling.

Claim 57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the zip coupling includes a first member for selectively engaging with a second member.

Claim 58. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the cardiac harness is configured for minimally invasive delivery.

Claim 59. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the first member slides relative to the second member in locking engagement.

Claim 60. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the first member snaps into locking engagement with the second member.

Claim 61. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 38, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

Claim 62. (New) The cardiac harness of claim 47, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

Claim 63. (New) The method of claim 52, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

Claim 64. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein the modules are configured for ex vivo assembly.

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